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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Bulgaria

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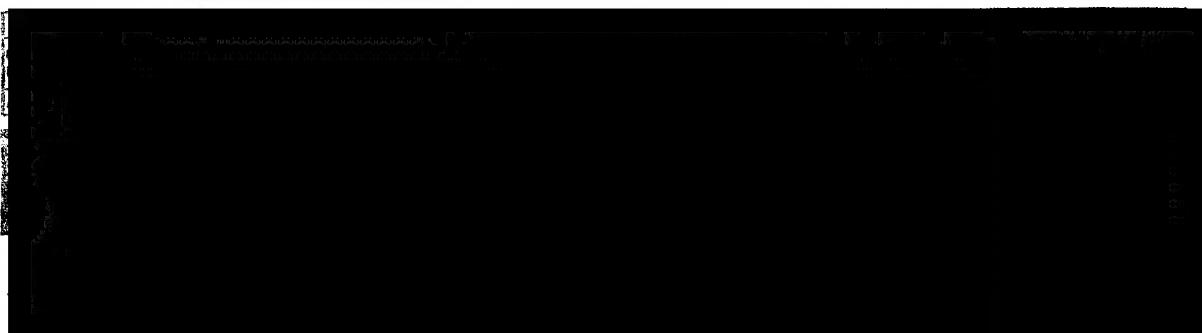
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1. The headquarters of the Bulgarsko Rechno Plavane (Bulgarian River Navigation), known as the BRP, is located on Turgovska Street in Ruse.
2. The BRP operates the following ships on the Danube River:
 - a. A German-built river ferry boat, now named the SOFIA, plies between the Rumanian shore and Ruse carrying freight cars. The ferry is equipped with two 600 horse-power diesel motors. Usually the ferry operates on one motor only, keeping the other in reserve. The ferry is 50 meters long and 8 or 10 meters wide. Its capacity is 18 railway cars, with 6 on each of the 3 tracks on its deck. It makes 4 daily trips from Ruse to Giurgiu on ordinary schedule, but in emergencies makes more, including night passages. It is manned by a crew of 10 to 15 men.
 - b. There are two former Hungarian passenger boats, one 95 meters long and the other 97 meters long. One of the boats is named ALEXANDER STAMBOLISKI and the other GEORGI DIMITROV. The boats run between Vidin and Silistra, stopping at all important port towns en route. The ships each carry 1,500 passengers. Each boat starts at opposite terminals at the same time. During spring and fall, when the weather is very bad, the boats only stop at Silistra and Ruse.
 - c. Two small Italian boats taken over by the Bulgarians during 1913 make the same Ruse-Silistra run as the larger boats, leaving port one day later. They carry 600 passengers each.
 - d. Six large diesel tugs, 90 meters long and 8 meters wide, are used to tow barges filled with heavy cargo. These tugs ply between Bratislava, Vienna, Budapest, Galati, Braila and Ismail.
 - e. Twelve tank barges ply between Giurgiu and Ruse carrying gasoline and petroleum products from Rumania to Bulgaria. These barges carry Latin numerals from I to XII followed by the letter "T". All other vessels carry the letters "BRP".

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- f. Four small tugboats are used to tow the tank barges. These tugs are 15 to 25 meters long and 3 to 4 meters wide.
- g. Five or six motor boats are used to carry passengers between the various small towns, and to tow small barges of merchandise.
- h. Several river pontoons are used in all large ports as docks. Ruse has three such pontoon docks and all the other ports at least one. Svishtov and Vidin use several.
- 3. Through Ruse, Bulgaria exports grapes, cigarettes, vegetables, tobacco, oils, cattle, fowl, cheeses, hides, hemp and cotton. Most of these exports go to Czechoslovakia and Russia. Hungary and Austria also receive some of these items, and Rumania imports a white stone used for construction purposes.
- 4. Bulgaria imports through Ruse the following items from Czechoslovakia: tractors, trucks, Steyr truck cabs and other small manufactured industrial items. From Hungary imports include medical and industrial instruments. Austria also furnishes medical instruments in large quantities. ZIS-150 and GAS-51 trucks, Stalinets tractors, harvesters, small weapons (rifles, sub-machine guns, machine guns, land mines), and some small instruments come from Russia. Rumania furnishes gasoline and petroleum products.
- 5. When boats are discharging or loading, all unauthorized persons are cleared out of the harbor area. When sensitive items, such as munitions, are being discharged, special hand-picked crews are used.
- 6. In the Ruse harbor, the River Naval Forces maintain one mine sweeper, three or four mine layers, and several motor torpedo boats. From time to time these units conduct exercises on the river and call at the various Bulgarian ports.
- 7. There is a shipbuilding and repair dock for river boats on the west side of the city of Ruse, with facilities for construction and maintenance of the Bulgarian Danube River boats, including the two largest passenger ships. A total of approximately 300 workers are employed.

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